CLAIMS:

1. A process for expanding tobacco in which the tobacco is impregnated with a liquid, the liquid impregnating the tobacco is frozen and the frozen liquid is then vaporized to expand the tobacco, characterized in that the liquid is carbon dioxide under pressure, the liquid is solidified by releasing the pressure and the tobacco which contains solid carbon dioxide is then heated to vaporize the carbon dioxide and effect expansion.

2. A process as claimed in claim 1 in which the temperature of the tobacco during impregnation is maintained at not less than $-2^{\circ}C$.

3. A process as claimed in claim 2 in which the impregnation is carried out at a pressure of 490 to 906 psig at a temperature not exceeding $31^{\circ}C$ for a period of from 0.5 to 60 minutes.

4. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3 in which the tobacco before impregnation contains from 8 to 50% by weight of water and during impregnation it is contacted with at least one part by weight of liquid carbon dioxide per part of tobacco.

5. A process as claimed in claim 4 in which 5 to 10 parts by weight of carbon dioxide are used per part of tobacco.

6. A process as claimed in any of the preceding claims in which the release of pressure to effect solidification is effected by venting the impregnation vessel to atmosphere.

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7. A process as claimed in claim 6 in which the venting takes no longer than three minutes.

8. A process as claimed in any of the preceding claims in which the vaporization of the solid carbon dioxide is carried out by heating at a pressure of from 0 to 10 psig and a temperature of from 100 to 370°C for a period of 0.2 to 10 seconds.

9. A process as claimed in any of the preceding claims in which the impregnation is carried out by introducing liquid carbon dioxide into a pressure vessel containing the tobacco and after completion of impregnation excess liquid is drained away before the pressure is released.

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